

Virginia African American Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 4th, 2021
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Members Present

Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Cameron Patterson, Rev. Cozy Bailey, Robert Barnette Jr., Xavier L. Beale, Larry D. Boone, Zyahna Bryant, Hope F. Cupit, Keren Charles Dongo, Shirley Ginwright, Dr. Ingrid Granberry Grant, Toria Edmonds-Howell, Gaylene Kanoyton, Yvonne J. Lewis, Eduardo Lopez, Dr. Monica Motley, Precious Rasheeda Muhammad, Monica L. Reid, Dr. Van C. Wilson

Members Not Present

Gilbert T. Bland, Teri Helenese

Staff from the Office of the Governor Present

*Honorable Kelly Thomasson, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Honorable Traci J. Deshazor, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth
Dr. Norm Oliver, Commission for the Virginia Department of Health
Courtney Dozier, Policy Director, Office of the Governor
Suzanne Holland, Special Assistant for Advisory Board Administration
Alaysia Black Hackett, Deputy Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer*

Other Staff Present

Justin Bell, Office of the Attorney General

Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Vice Chair called the meeting to order of the Virginia African American Advisory Board at 1:05 p.m. She mentioned that she is stepping in on behalf of our Chairman Gilbert Bland. She mentioned that we continued to encourage him as he deals with some health challenges. Dr. Ivey Green mentioned that we are off schedule and that we will get caught up. She mentioned some administrative items as it relates to elections and other items

Cameron Patterson proceeded with the roll call at the request of Dr. Ivey Green.

Roll Call

- Gilbert T. Bland, Chair – Absent
- Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Vice Chair – Present
- Cameron D. Patterson, Secretary – Present
- Rev. Cozy Bailey, USMC (ret.)- Present
- Robert Barnette Jr. – Present
- Xavier L. Beale – Present
- Larry D. Boone – Present
- Zyahna Bryant – Present
- Hope F. Cupit – Present
- Keren Charles Dongo – Present
- Shirley Ginwright – Present
- Dr. Ingrid Granberry Grant – Present

- Teri Helenese – Absent
- Toria Edmonds-Howell – Present
- Gaylene Kanoyton – Present
- Yvonne J. Lewis – Present
- Eduardo Lopez, Esq. – Present
- Dr. Monica Motley – Present
- Precious Rasheeda Muhammad – Present
- Monica L. Reid – Present
- Dr. Van C. Wilson – Present

Secretary Cameron Patterson called for the approval of the November meeting minutes. Along with the adoption of the February meeting agenda. The motion was made by Reverend Cozy Bailey and seconded by Zyahna Bryant. No discussion from the board.

Meeting Agenda Adoption

- Gilbert T. Bland, Chair – Absent
- Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Vice Chair – Present
- Cameron D. Patterson, Secretary- Present
- Rev. Cozy Bailey, USMC (ret.) – Aye
- Robert Barnette Jr.- No Vote Recorded
- Xavier L. Beale- Aye
- Larry D. Boone - Aye
- Zyahna Bryant - Aye
- Hope F. Cupit – Aye
- Keren Charles Dongo – Aye
- Shirley Ginwright – Aye
- Dr. Ingrid Granberry Grant – Aye
- Teri Helenese – Absent
- Toria Edmonds-Howell – Aye
- Gaylene Kanoyton – Aye
- Yvonne J. Lewis – Aye
- Eduardo Lopez, Esq.- Aye
- Dr. Monica Motley – Aye
- Precious Rasheeda Muhammad – Aye
- Monica L. Reid – Aye
- Dr. Van C. Wilson – Aye

Dr. Ivey Green, Vice Chair asked for an approval of the November 2020 minutes. A motion was made by Reverend Cozy Bailey and seconded by Yvonne Lewis. No discussion from the board.

Approval of the February Minutes

- Gilbert T. Bland, Chair – Absent
- Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Vice Chair - Aye
- Cameron D. Patterson, Secretary – Aye
- Rev. Cozy Bailey, USMC (ret.) - Aye
- Robert Barnette Jr. – No Vote Recorded
- Xavier L. Beale - Aye
- Larry D. Boone – Aye
- Zyahna Bryant – Aye
- Hope F. Cupit – Aye
- Keren Charles Dongo – Aye
- Shirley Ginwright – No Vote Recorded
- Dr. Ingrid Granberry Grant- Aye
- Teri Helenese – Absent
- Toria Edmonds-Howell – Aye
- Gaylene Kanoyton – Aye
- Yvonne J. Lewis – Aye
- Eduardo Lopez, Esq.- Aye
- Dr. Monica Motley – Aye
- Precious Rasheeda Muhammad – Aye
- Monica L. Reid – Aye
- Dr. Van C. Wilson- Aye

Cameron Patterson, Secretary opened the floor for public comment. He asked that all persons present at least take a moment to introduce themselves that they can be acknowledged by the board and recognized as part of the meeting minutes. He turned over to staff to help facilitate. Suzanne went through the list alphabetically to call on individuals. Brianna Turner (she/her/hers) is a student at Virginia Tech and attending as an intern with the Motley Consulting Group. Crystal Cobbs, Chair of the Danville Public Schools introduced herself. She spoke regarding the Black Chamber of Commerce initiative that is being introduced in her community. Troy Shaw introduced himself as a representative of the Black Business Collaborative in Danville. Dr. Ivey Green indicated that she would like to connect them with our Small Black Business Committee. Mr. Eric Ramos (he/him/his) introduced himself as a Virginia Tech student and intern with the Motley Consulting Group. Crystal Dorsey introduced herself as the Assistant Director for Career Services at Virginia Commonwealth University. She is also the Secretary of the Greater Richmond Urban League of Young Professionals Chapter. She mentioned supporting advocacy of legislative activities and being a small business owner. Dr. Ivey Green mentioned the survey the VAAB is reach and how our guest can be of help in that regard. Rev. Bailey asked Mrs. Dorsey to clarify her focus areas which she says included covid, Racial Injustice, Civil & Political Engagement. She mentioned the legalization of marijuana, covid relief, and the four pillars of the National Urban League which includes engagement of young professionals. Mrs. Rogers joined from the Maggie L. Walker Historic Site and Evergreen Cemetery. She mentioned wanting to join and learn more about the work of the VAAAB. Suzanne gave a final call for

those who were interested in taking advantage of the public comment section. Dr. Ivey Green asked for individuals to put their contact information into the Chat.

Dr. Ivey Green shared a Vice Chairman's Report. She thanked the Board for engagement during 2020 that allowed for us to submit our report on time which is located on the website. She mentioned that some of our priorities ended up in the Special Session and are on track to be introduced during the current Legislative Session in which we are currently in. She asked that the Board continue engagement as we prepare to put together the 2021 report. Dr. Ivey Green encouraged us to continue our connections within the community. She also encouraged us to establish a directory of key partners that we can continue to work with in the community. Dr. Ivey Green also asked that we continue to engage with the events shared by staff. Dr. Ivey Green mentioned that Gil was improving and that she was able to make contact with him. She said that she would share that and that Shirley Ginwright would be helping us to make connections.

Secretary Thomasson joined the meeting to provide an Administration Update. She mentioned a legislative priority related to a restoration of rights amendment that is a priority of the Governor. This amendment would restore rights following the completion of their incarceration. She is excited that there is some traction being gained related to this issue. There is a bill to create a new advisory board to support the LGBTQ+ community that is moving forward. Suzanne shared some additional administrative updates for the Board related to social media, upcoming meetings, and important websites that share legislative and COVID-19 information.

Deputy Secretary and Director of Black/African American Outreach Traci Deshazor shared some updates regarding outreach efforts for the Administration. Her updates focused on student opportunities, appointments challenge, Black History Month. She mentioned the Governor's Management Fellows Program in partnership with Virginia Tech. Deputy Secretary Deshazor mentioned the Appointments Challenge amongst the Boards. She also mentioned that just under 20% of appointments are black. She also mentioned a proclamation from the Governor. Secretary Deshazor mentioned the Fort Monroe Listening Session and thanked the Board for participating during one of the listening sessions. She also mentioned events related to a conversation regarding serving on state appointed boards. Along with a conversation regarding the creation of the Office of Civil Rights by Attorney General Mark Herring. Deputy Secretary Deshazor mentioned a comprehensive listening of events as well.

Dr. Ivey Green recognized Elvan Burton the newest member of the Board. Elvan introduced himself and mentioned that he is the Director of Government Relations for Virginia State. He also serves on the Board of Directors for J. Sargent Reynolds Community College.

Suzanne Holland led the elections process the 2021 Executive Officers. Each of the nominated officers for the slate were given the opportunity to share a few remarks before a roll call vote. Dr. Ivey Green offered remarks and thanked the Board for the nomination. She mentioned having a servant leadership style having served in a number of leadership roles. She mentioned continuing to work and solicit support from Board members along with believing in succession planning.

Cameron called for a roll call vote for the position of Chairperson.

Approval of Dr. Ivey Green as Chairman

- Gilbert T. Bland, Chair – Absent
- Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Vice Chair – Abstain
- Cameron D. Patterson, Secretary – Yes
- Rev. Cozy Bailey, USMC (ret.) – Yes
- Robert Barnette Jr. – Yes
- Xavier L. Beale - Yes
- Larry D. Boone – Yes
- Zyahna Bryant – Yes
- Hope F. Cupit – Yes
- Keren Charles Dongo – Yes
- Shirley Ginwright – Yes
- Dr. Ingrid Granberry Grant – Yes
- Teri Helenese – Yes
- Toria Edmonds-Howell – Yes
- Gaylene Kanoyton – Yes
- Yvonne J. Lewis – Yes
- Eduardo Lopez, Esq.- Yes
- Dr. Monica Motley – Yes
- Precious Rasheeda Muhammad – Yes
- Monica L. Reid – Yes
- Dr. Van C. Wilson – Yes

Reverend Cozy Bailey provided remarks to Board members. Reverend Bailey mentioned that he was honored and humbled. He mentioned the leadership positions he held in the Marine Core. He mentioned that this Board appointment is one of the highlights of his social activist career. He looks forward to working in the position and with the Executive Board.

Approval of Reverend Cozy Bailey as Vice Chairman

- Gilbert T. Bland, Chair – Absent
- Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Vice Chair – Yes
- Cameron D. Patterson, Secretary- Yes
- Rev. Cozy Bailey, USMC (ret.) – Yes
- Robert Barnette Jr. – Yes
- Xavier L. Beale – Yes
- Larry D. Boone – Yes
- Zyahna Bryant – Yes
- Hope F. Cupit – Yes
- Keren Charles Dongo – Yes
- Shirley Ginwright – Yes
- Dr. Ingrid Granberry Grant – Yes
- Teri Helenese – Absent
- Toria Edmonds-Howell – Yes
- Gaylene Kanoyton – Yes

- Yvonne J. Lewis – Yes
- Eduardo Lopez, Esq. – Yes
- Dr. Monica Motley - Yes
- Precious Rasheeda Muhammad – Yes
- Monica L. Reid – Yes
- Dr. Van C. Wilson – Yes

Cameron Patterson offered remarks for the position of Secretary. Cameron mentioned that he looks forward to being involved in helping with some of the communication efforts internally to the Board and externally to the public. Cameron thanked the Board for their confidence.

Approval of Cameron Patterson as Secretary

- Gilbert T. Bland, Chair – Absent
- Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Vice Chair – Yes
- Cameron D. Patterson, Secretary – Yes
- Rev. Cozy Bailey, USMC (ret.) – Yes
- Robert Barnette Jr. – Yes
- Xavier L. Beale – Yes
- Larry D. Boone – Yes
- Zyahna Bryant – Yes
- Hope F. Cupit – Yes
- Keren Charles Dongo – Yes
- Shirley Ginwright – Yes
- Dr. Ingrid Granberry Grant – Yes
- Teri Helenese – Absent
- Toria Edmonds-Howell – Yes
- Gaylene Kanoyton – Yes
- Yvonne J. Lewis – Yes
- Eduardo Lopez, Esq. – Yes
- Dr. Monica Motley – Yes
- Precious Rasheeda Muhammad – Yes
- Monica L. Reid – Yes
- Dr. Van C. Wilson – Yes

Suzanne Holland asked that the Board take a moment to recognize the newly elected officers for 2021. They include Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Chair, Reverend Cozy Bailey, Vice Chair, Cameron Patterson, Secretary. Dr. Ivey Green moved for a five minute break.

Dr. Norm Oliver, Commissioner for the Virginia Department of Health joined the meeting. He gave an update regarding the state of the pandemic. He mentioned being over 500,000 cases. He mentioned that cases and deaths are continuing to rise. Dr. Oliver mentioned administering 920,000 doses of the vaccination thus far. He mentioned the need for folks to continue taking the virus seriously. He mentioned that Virginia has moved up and is approaching the top 10 in terms

of doses administered to residents in the state. He also mentioned the different vaccination phases and the reasoning behind the phases. He said that equity continues to be a focus. Dr. Oliver mentioned that a call center is being set up and next week training will begin with operators to staff the call center. This will be a one stop shop for folks to get answers and schedule their vaccination within their health districts across Virginia. Gaylene Kanoyton asked for Dr. Oliver to speak to the differences related to the vaccination. Dr. Oliver mentioned that the main difference is in terms of the way in which they are packaged. The efficacy is nearly the same. The Pfizer vaccination has some differences as it relates to storage. He encouraged individuals to take either one offered with no questions asked. Dr. Monica Motley asked what were the strategies to increase culturally relevant information out to communities. Dr. Oliver mentioned that the most important thing to do is to recognize the legitimacy of that mistrust. He encouraged folks to continue to ask questions and receive their answers. He also talked about the importance of the messenger as it relates to communicating information. Reverend Cozy Bailey asked about trusted voices and what VDH is doing to monitor the success of getting that message out. Particularly whether or not there is increase in communities of color coming out to get the vaccine. Dr. Oliver mentioned that they are working to better capture data as it relates to race and ethnicity. They are continuing to find ways to increase this. Monica Reid asked about vaccination for incarcerated individuals. Dr. Oliver mentioned this is going slowly, but that it is due to the lack of vaccination at the moment. That will increase as the supply increases. The Commonwealth is receiving 100,000 vaccines per week. Dr. Oliver spoke about the way in which the vaccine is being prioritized within the various phases and to localities.

Courtney Dozier, Policy Director in the Office of the Governor provided a legislative update. She spoke about the amendment to abolish the death penalty. She also spoke about the legislation regarding automatic restoration of rights. They are supporting that your time is done when sentence ends and not when probation period ends. The Governor felt strongly that once you served your time that your rites should be fully restored. There has also been a resolution to make racism a public health crisis. Courtney mentioned some of the marijuana legislation. Courtney updated regarding bill to provide tuition assistance for undocumented students. The G3 legislation for community colleges continues to move forward. They are also working on issues as it relates to food insecurity issues. Courtney mentioned there are a number of other bills that are currently moving forward, but this represents some of the larger legislation. Monica Reid ask about pre-trial data which was a recommendation in the VAAAB Annual Report.

Alaysia Black Hackett, Deputy Chief Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Officer joined the meeting to share some updates regarding the work of the office. It was mentioned that the positions were recently codified by the General Assembly. There has been work done to prepare for the One Virginia Strategic Planning effort. The anticipation for a release is in the next 1-2 months. The office continues to be involved in vaccination efforts from an equity standpoint. The inaugural meeting of the New Americans Advisory Board was held. The importance of this work is working on behalf of our immigrant community within Virginia. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion has partnered with VDH for Town Halls including our Faith Based Community.

Dr. Monica Motley gave a update regarding the Phase 2 Beta Testing of the VAAAB Community Needs Survey. Dr. Motley mentioned that the aim is to understand which issues identified by the African American Advisory Board are of greatest importance and interest to the

African American survey participants. The secondary aim is to enhance relevancy and appropriateness of committee legislative, statutory, regulatory, budgetary concerns. The Beta Survey is due on February 12th. Board members are asked to complete the survey, provide survey feedback, and participate in the recruitment and survey promotion. In March the goal is to finalize the Alpha Version, begin recruitment and solidify recruitment and promotion. In April – June the goal is to move towards the preparation for a full launch of the survey.

Chief Boone shared a report on behalf of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. There was discussion regarding the capitol riot and the use of K-9 dogs in law enforcement. There was concern about law enforcement officers participating in the event. There was a recommendation for law enforcement officers to vet their rank and file for participation in extremist groups. Regarding K-9 dogs there was discussion and recommendation regarding all K-9 dog owners wearing a body camera. Monica Reid encouraged guest to notify the Board via our email regarding concerns that they might have so they can information future recommendations. Dr. Granberry Grant mentioned that the Education Committee reflected on the recommendations offered in the most recent annual report. The committee asked if they wanted to keep their recommendations or enhance them. As it relates to mental health, there was thought about making sure that there is focus on behalf of Higher Education. Along with continuing to be involved as it relates to the G3 legislation. The committee will continue to monitor recommendations and legislation that is currently moving forward with Education.

Gaylene Kanoyton shared an update regarding Health & Environment. She mentioned that much of their report was shared during the legislative update. Many of the health recommendations in the annual report have been introduced within the General Assembly as legislative priorities. The committee did focus on vaccine distribution and wanting to know more about data. Keren Dongo shared that the Small Business Committee would be reaching out to Black Chamber of Commerce around the state. They are interested in learning about how black owned businesses are using state resources as it relates to covid and wanting to see what measures are in place to see how we can help them thrive and continue to move forward.

Dr. Ivey Green held a discussion about the year ahead for the Board. She mentioned wanting to stay connected and shared her appreciation to our committees for laying the ground work as we continue to move forward towards putting together the annual report. Gaylene Kanoyton mentioned that we have to think about what things will look like as we continue to navigate the covid environment. Deputy Secretary Deshazor asked us to remember the timeline of this being the last year of the administration. She encouraged us to be strategic and innovative in our approach. Hope Cupit mentioned wanting to engage in some outreach efforts as it relates to nutrition and other health related issues. She wants to make sure our people are staying healthy. Dr. Ivey Green reemphasized wanting to stay connected. Gaylene mentioned Black Table Talks. Keren Dongo mentioned her willingness to continue conversations regarding the effort, but wanted to ensure that we are reaching all parts of the community. Keren also mentioned that we should be focused on kids and the elderly as it relates to outreach needs. Rev. Bailey mentioned that he would be willing to coordinate with Keren and Gaylene regarding bringing to fruition the idea of keeping us connected as a Board and continuing some outreach efforts. Deputy Secretary DeShazor mentioned that her office continues to be a resource as it relates to outreach strategy in her role as Director of Black/African American Outreach.

Dr. Ivey Green shared some closing remarks. She thanked staff for their support. She reminded us regarding committee meetings in early April. The next Board meeting is April 8th.